

It is in our families that we learn, develop and practice those attitudes and concepts of right and wrong, of fairness, of charity, and love of country. Neither schools nor the institutions of government can ever replace the American family in the development of responsible and caring individuals.

Since we believe that every child has the right to grow up in a secure, loving family and that this experience lays the foundation for a happy, productive adulthood, we commend the growing numbers of Americans who are building families through adoption. By this means, thousands of children of all ages, backgrounds and with various special needs have been able to reap the benefits of permanent family membership.

It is within that family circle that each child learns the most important of life's lessons: from parents, love and respect; from grandparents and other elder relatives, wisdom and tolerance. These family experiences nurture our sense of community with others.

In deprivation and abundance, in turmoil and tranquility, Americans have reached out for their destiny from the constant sanctuary of family life.

In recognition of this fundamental role of the family in the development and continued vitality of our Nation, the Congress has requested that the week of Thanksgiving in 1976 be designated as National Family Week (Public Law 94-270, 90 Stat. 372).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning on November 21, 1976, as National Family Week. I invite the Governors of the several States and the chief officials of local governments to observe National Family Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

I urge all Americans to observe this week by sharing with their families and friends an expression of the bonds between them and a common acknowledgement that through the extended relationships of the family, we will improve the quality of our lives and increase our Nation's store of peace, progress, happiness, and individual liberty.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4474

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October 25, 1976

Thanksgiving Day, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Traditionally, Americans have set aside a special day to express their gratitude to the Almighty for the blessings of liberty, peace and plenty that have been bestowed upon a grateful Nation.

The early settlers of this land possessed an unconquerable spirit and a reliance on Divine Providence that remains a part of the American character. That reliance, coupled with a belief in our selves and a love of individual freedom, has brought this Nation through two centuries of progress and kept us strong.

As we cross the threshold into our third century as a sovereign and independent Nation, it is especially appropriate that we reaffirm our trust in Him and express our gratitude for the unity, freedom and renewed sense of national pride we enjoy today.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, in accord with Section 6103 of Title 5 of the United States Code, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 25, 1976, as a day of national thanksgiving. I call upon all Americans to join on that day with their friends and families in homes and places of worship throughout the land to offer thanks for the blessings we enjoy.

Let each of us resolve this Thanksgiving Day to make the coming year one in which our every deed will reflect our constant gratitude to God. Let us set a standard of honor, justice, and charity against which all the years of our third century may be measured.

Let us make this Thanksgiving a truly special one.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4475

October 25, 1976

Wright Brothers Day, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On December 17, 1903, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, two brothers, Orville and Wilbur Wright, revolutionized transportation when they made the first successful flight in a heavier-than-air, powered aircraft. On that memorable day, 73 years ago, those two Americans laid the foundation for modern aviation. The phenomenal advances in aviation and space technology since that first successful adventure are now portrayed in the new National Air and Space Museum in our Nation's Capital.

It is particularly fitting to recognize, in this year of our Nation's Bicentennial, the determination and ingenuity displayed by the Wright brothers during the years of experimentation in developing their airplane. These traits are symbolic of the American spirit and of the American commitment to make this a better world.

To commemorate the historic achievements of the Wright brothers, the Congress, by a joint resolution of December 17, 1963 (77 Stat. 402, 36 U.S.C. 169), designated the seventeenth day of December of each year as Wright Brothers Day and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.